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"Something For Nothing" Is a Game That Has Been Worn Threadbare — It's a Disappointment — Look Out For It

WEEKLY LETTER.

The Seventh Week of the Legislature.

Friday was the fifth day of the sixth week of the legislative session of 1911. It was the fortieth day in a fifty day session. The pay of the members of the Legislature will cease next Tuesday but there is little chance that the session will end there. It appears likely now that the session will extend at least ten days beyond the fixed term. It will be impossible for the house to complete its work within the remaining ten days, although the Senate might be able to do it. However, the Senate cannot adjourn until the House completes its work.

There is talk in the House of taking final adjournment Mar. 3, but it is not likely that will be done as no House has ever stopped off short in the middle of a job. There are now twelve pages of bills on the House calendar under the head of general orders. All must be considered or dumped. There are also many bills still in the hands of committees. The Senate has seven pages of bills under the head of general orders. The House is still considering platform measures and probably will be on them until the middle of the week.

Last week was a busy one in both houses. In the House the state fair proposition, the initiative and referendum, the recall, the compensation bill and liability bills held down the boards. In the Senate most of the week was devoted to the investigation of the pork barrel charges.

The House redeemed three of the Republican platform pledges last week. Two of them were out and out fulfillment of pledges. The public utilities and the initiative and referendum. None of them have been passed or adopted by the Senate, hence these pledges are only half redeemed.

The latter, however, is a question yet. There were two utilities bills introduced in each body known as the administration bill and the minority bill. In the Senate, a third bill was drafted by a sub-committee, likewise in the House. The house bill provided for state wide utilities only, giving to the cities the right to regulate their own utilities. This is in accordance with the Democratic platform, and Gov. Stubbs speeches in the campaign. This bill passed the House; but when it reached the Senate it was promptly squelched, that body taking up their own bill which will send the bill to conference. The house bill was unanimously reported by the judiciary committee, composed of Standpat and progressive Republicans, and Democrats and received the support of all but six of the members.

The first part of the week was taken up with the state fair fight. Hutchinson, Wichita and Topeka, all had state fair bills in and the Senate had passed the Hutchinson bill, locating the fair at that point. Monday night the night before the bills were to come up for consideration in the House J. E. Mercer, of Chase county, offered a resolution providing that it should be left to the people at the next election to say whether there should be a state fair and if so where it should be located. The first talk of a special session of the Legislature also developed Monday.

Tuesday the House took up the Mercer resolution and adopted it, and the other fair bills were killed. It was Tuesday that the House killed the Sessions corporation tax bill, providing for a tax of three-twentieths of one per cent upon the capital stock of corporations, domestic and foreign. The House passed the public utilities bill brought in by the judiciary committee by a vote of 113 to 6. It also passed the Feder bill providing for state aid for weak school districts and a minimum school term of seven months in every district in the state.

The House started work on the initiative and referendum resolution Wednesday, but got into

a row as to whether the Republican or Democratic resolution should be considered and the fight went over until the next day. The students of Quindaro university appeared before the House and Senate in Representative hall and entertained the members with musical numbers for two hours.

Thursday the initiative and referendum was passed by the House by a vote of 107 to 10. The measure adopted was the one introduced by H. E. DonCarlos, of Douglas county. The Republicans defeated the motion to substitute the minority measure offered by J. H. Cassin, of Crawford county. The resolution adopted provides that 5 percent of the voters of the state may initiate a legislative measure and that eight may secure a referendum upon it. However, it requires 15 per cent to initiate an amendment to the constitution.

Friday the House passed the recall bill by a vote of 96 to 22. This measure was offered by J. M. Davis, of Bourbon county, a Democrat. It provides for the recall of any state official. If a recall petition bearing the signatures of 25 per cent of the voters of the district electing him is filed, the official may either resign or stand for another election. If he stands for the election and does not receive more than 50 per cent of the votes cast he is ousted. The recall was forced through by the Democrats without an amendment. Serious opposition came to the bill from the Republican side of the House, and every sort of filibustering tactics known to modern legislative methods were resorted to by the Republicans. Various amendments, seeking to render the resolution inoperative or irregular were offered but thanks to a few liberal minded members on the majority side, the measure was finally passed by a scant majority.

Saturday the feature of the House session was the tirade delivered against the Daily Capital by J. W. Davis, of Kiowa county, because it dared to criticize the public utilities bill and his connection with it as an attorney for the Rock Island Railway Co.

The Senate lost considerable time last week on account of Dave Leahy, the Governor's private secretary. The Senate claims that Dave is culpable, while the latter claims that the Senate is to blame for the waste of time. Tuesday the Senate summoned Leahy before it to tell what he knew of any existing bribery or crookedness in the legislative halls, particularly in the senate. All of Tuesday afternoon was devoted to this hearing, when no indictable crimes were discovered that could be charged against that body, although Leahy charged the stand pat senators and a considerable number of the progressive senators with unfaithfulness to the people for their failure to pass the recall and the initiative and referendum. Leahy also asserted that the much advertised pork barrel was a reality.

Thursday the Leahy episode was renewed when the Governor's private secretary sent a communication to the senate charging that false evidence was about to go into the records of Tuesday's investigation and asking mission to expose this and also to start an investigation along lines which had not been covered on Tuesday. The Senate smarting under the accusations that the senators had not dared to go on the stand themselves on Tuesday, granted Leahy's request to renew the investigation so quick that it made the private secretary's head swim. In just about seven minutes after Leahy's communication had reached the senate Thursday morning the investigation which he asked for had been opened, and it continued all through the day. Leahy declared that he had not meant that there records of Tuesday's proceedings were being tampered with, but only that some of the testimony uttered on the stand by J. T. Moore, of Pittsburg, on Tuesday had been untrue.

The topline event of the week in the Senate was the appearance

Taft Knows that Farmers "Suspicion" Reciprocity.

While President Taft does not believe that the opposition of the farmers of this country to the proposed reciprocity amendment with Canada is nearly so deep-rooted or so widespread as some persons are endeavoring to have it appear to be, he nevertheless recognizes the fact that such opposition exists and it is likely to prove very troublesome in bringing about the consummation of the proposed agreement unless it is overcome. Consequently his most urgent appeals and his most persuasive arguments in behalf of the measure are now being directed to the American farmer.

In line with the president's reciprocity campaign will be the trip of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to Buffalo tomorrow, where he is to deliver a Washington's birthday address before the Elliott Club of that city. Secretary Wilson in his address will pursue to same line of argument in regard to reciprocity used by the president in his recent speeches in Columbus and Springfield, but will go more into the details of the plan and the manner in which it may be expected to affect the interests of the American farmer. His speech will be a direct reply to the arguments going the rounds that the farmers and farmer organizations of the country are opposed to Canadian reciprocity.

President Taft believes the secretary of agriculture is probably the best informed man in the entire country on all that affects the interests of the farmers and he is sure that his arguments on reciprocity will be valuable. It is declared by sources close to the administration that the National Grange, which has been widely quoted opposing the agreement, has not acted as an organization and that the entire clamor has been made by a few of the officers of the organization who are personally opposed to reciprocity and are seeking to have the organization endorse their views.

A. R. Friedeman has moved his garage to the old stand on Williams. The Lampe brothers are preparing to occupy the garage occupied by Mr. Friedeman.

of William Allen White on the witness stand for about an hour Thursday afternoon, when he followed Leahy on the stand. When White took the stand the feeling in the Senate chamber was pretty bitter, but when the Emporia editor and his seraphic smile left the stand there was nothing but the best of feeling. Men who had almost hated White in an impersonal way on account of his political policies, felt friendly towards him when he concluded his seance.

In the way of legislation the senate spent a day working on the Senate public utilities bill which is whipped into shape with the exception of the capitalization section of the bill. Some slight changes may be made in this section and the entire bill will probably be passed Tuesday morning.

The senate passed the Hunter bill fixing the rates of the state grain inspection department at a cent per thousand pounds, which it is expected will put this department on a self supporting basis.

The Huffman bill reorganizing the militia of the state in a manner to more closely approach the service standards of the United States army was also passed. The Myers bill abolishing justices of the peace in county seats and establishing county courts with the probate judge of the respective counties as judges of the county courts, also passed the Senate.

A bill went through the House Thursday, amending the law so that voters in cities of the first class and second class must register every year in order to be qualified to vote. This arrangement will undoubtedly obviate much confusion. If a voter knows he must register each year, he will attend to that important

Good for Hutchinson.

The following article from the News indicates prosperity and good fortune for our sister city which Great Bend is glad to see.

Topeka, Kans., Feb. 21.—At noon today Governor Stubbs signed and issued a proclamation making Hutchinson a City of the First Class. The proclamation follows.

"Proclamation—Published February 21, 1911.

"To all whom these presents shall come, greetings:

"Whereas, it appears to my satisfaction by proper documents duly certified and authenticated and now on file in my office at the State Capitol in the City of Topeka, that it has duly ascertained by lawful census and enumeration that the City of Hutchinson in the County of Reno, and State of Kansas has attained a population of over fifteen thousand and inhabitants is, and is therefore entitled to be declared and proclaimed a City of the First Class under Chapter 17 of the General Statutes of Kansas of 1909.

"Now I, therefore, W. R. Stubbs Governor of the State of Kansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, do hereby proclaim that the City of Hutchinson, in the County of Reno, and State of Kansas, now is and shall hereafter be a City of the First Class and that said City and the inhabitants thereof shall now and hereafter be entitled to enjoy and exercise all the rights, honors, privileges and duties conferred upon such city and the inhabitants thereof in compliance with the laws of the State of Kansas.

"Done at the State Capitol in the City of Topeka, this 21st day of February, 1911.

"W. R. STUBBS,
Governor.

"Attest:
Charles H. Sessions, Secretary of State."

Kane

The little four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kane died Tuesday night of scarlet fever at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Hi Adams, 10th and Morcon. The sympathy of the community goes out to the relatives and friends during this sad hour.

matter and take no chances.

It is a safe proposition that the minority members of the House will be found carefully scrutinizing any proposition carrying an appropriation. Several measures calling for extra boards and commissions have already been defeated through the united efforts of the Democrats.

On Saturday the house passed the following bills:

One bill passed was the liability bill introduced by George R. Allen, of Wyandotte county.

Another was the ways and means committee bill appropriating \$60,000 for the purchase of coal for the state charitable institutions when the state penitentiary is unable to furnish it.

Another was introduced by J. M. Meek, of Nemaha county, requiring railroads to erect sheds and watering facilities in stock yards where ordered to do so by the Board of Railroad Commissioners.

Another was a bill introduced by J. W. Davis, of Kiowa, prohibiting the giving of bail in certain first degree murder cases.

Another was the resolution offered by Senator W. M. Glenn, approving the sixteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The W. P. Feder headlight bill recommended for passage Friday night, providing for headlights that will reveal the figure of a man eight hundred feet ahead of a locomotive, was also passed.

The H. E. DonCarlos mutual fire insurance bill was passed, also the Senator Quincy bill relating to the sending home of votes cast by traveling men wherever they might be on election day.

The resolution introduced by H. E. Don Carlos, of Douglas county urging Congress to prohibit the sale of internal revenue stamps

Canadian Reciprocity.

The following from Wallaces' Farmer gives a few side lights on the Canadian Reciprocity Bill. We may not all agree exactly with the writer on all points but we believe it contains much valuable food for reflection.

While none can say what the immediate effect of the passage of this measure on the market value of agricultural products, the question involved is one of justice to the greatest number, and one which street corner discussion will not settle.

"Just when we simple-minded farmers were preparing to demonstrate to the president's tariff commission that we were entitled to protection to the extent of the difference in the cost of production of wheat on the one hundred-dollar land of the wheat belt of the west as compared with that grown on twenty-dollar land in Canada, of cattle in the corn belt as compared with cattle on the Canadian ranges, and of corn in the corn belt as compared with corn grown on the steppes of Argentina, the president makes a sudden flop and proposes to wipe out all protection against Canada by a treaty providing for free trade in all natural products.

"All this is exactly what we expected, what we have been telling our readers for two years past, at which statement some of them were disposed to take offense. Neither the standpatters nor the progressives in Washington know just what they are at. There is a wholesome fear on both sides that the farmer will gradually show his teeth and possibly make an ugly rent in the whole tariff system.

"We are not now going to discuss the question as to what extent the farmer will be injured by this reciprocity treaty, for that would be discussing it from a purely selfish standpoint, the same low standpoint from which this question has been discussed for forty years. In fact, we do not know just what effect the proposed treaty would have on prices of the farm products of the central west. Rather, we wish to put this fundamental question to our readers: Do the farmers owe the manufacturers interests a living? That we do has been quietly assumed for forty years. The doctrine of the times of Washington, 'lay

Webster and even Lincoln' was that the farmer, and in fact the whole people, owed infant industries struggling for an existence protection against the well-established industries of the Old World—and gave it.

"For the last forty years it has been tacitly assumed, not that the people owe infant industries this sort of protection but that they owe them a living, a guarantee of success. This assumption underlies all attempts at reform that have been made. The republican party at its last convention advocated a tariff equal to the difference in cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The president's tariff commission is acting on precisely the same assumption. Every proposition in congress for a reform of the evils of the tariff proceeds on the same basis.

"Now, is this true or false? Does the farmer, does the laborer, owe the manufacturer a living? At any rate, they have consented to the advance of tariffs on manufactured products to such an extent that the people rebelled last November; have fostered infant industries until they reach a point where more than half our exports are manufactured products sold in competitive markets at a fraction of the prices at which they are sold at home. There being no further advance possible in this direction, then on this theory it is perfectly proper that we should begin at the other end, and by wiping out every vestige of tariff on natural products—grain, roots, lumber, live stock—build up these manufacturing interests by giving them raw materials at the lowest possible cost.

"This is the direction in which we have been moving for years. We see it stated that about half our imports are raw material for manufacturers, and most of them free. We give them rebates to the extent of ninety-nine per cent on raw material on which they pay duty; for example, wheat milled in transit for export; corn shipped in from Argentina and made into corn products for exports; tin shipped in from Wales to be made into oil cans.

"The step which the president has taken is therefore a logical one on the assumption that we owe the manufacturer a living. The next logical step will be the admission of cattle free from Mexico; corn, wheat and cattle free from Argentina. The senate has passed a subsidy bill looking to this end. Senator Cummins voted against it, but Senator Young was paired for it, and this vote, or rather pair, was sufficient to carry the bill. By the time this is accomplished the trusts that control the great factories can do what they please with the farmers, who will stand unhelped and eat out of their hands. They will then not fear the wrath of the granger as they do now. The fears of many students of political economy, that the farms of America will be owned by great landlords and farmed by a peasantry, will then be in a fair way to be realized, which the farmer must now consider is whether he owes the manufacturer, the transporter, or the merchant, or anybody else under the sun, a living? This question settled, the rest will be easy. He will then be in a position to say: Free fides, free shoes; free wool, free woollens; free coal and ore, then free steel, woven wire and building material 'Sass' for the goose, 'sass' for the gander.

"This proposition of free trade with Canada, to be followed by free trade with Mexico and the Argentine, is no surprise to us. It is the logical result of the theory upon which we have been building tariffs, namely, that the farmer owes the manufacturer a living. It has come sooner than we expected, on account of the elections of last November."

Miss Bess Hopkins of Garden City was the guest of Miss Muri Kipp Tuesday. Miss Hopkins stopped here on her way to Topeka to visit a brother.